



Quarter 1 Newsletter



July—September, 2013

Hot Topics

*****Partnership meeting date is October 17th at 3:30 at the Lakes Region Library in Inverness*****

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Membership Drive



On July 25th the Tobacco Partnership of Citrus County held a Membership Drive at Lakes Region Library in Inverness. There were tables throughout the room with different policy areas Tobacco Free Florida tackles, such as Candy Flavored tobacco and Smoke-Free Multi Unit Housing. Each table had information about what the policy was, what had been done in that past, and what needs to be done in the future.

Throughout the night several people from all over Citrus County stopped in to meet with new and current members. Visitors ranged from County Commissioner J.J. Kenney to Chamber of Commerce CEO Josh Wooten to Florida Department of Health in Citrus County Public Health Officer Lisa McCafferty.

After speaking with several different community members about tobacco prevention and cessation, the night was an

overall success. All new members were given "goodie bags" with Tobacco Free Florida promotional information as well as important information about the Partnership.

A special thank you to Katie Mehl from CMH for providing food and Miguel Velazquez from WellCare for providing drinks.

If you or anyone you know would like to join the Tobacco Free Partnership of Citrus County, our meetings are held quarterly (every three months) on the third Thursday.

This Partnership provides information about what is happening in Citrus County regarding tobacco use and what others can do to prevent it.



Summertime SWAT Meeting (July 19th)

***“If the wind will
not serve, take to
the oars.***

***Destitutus ventis,
remos adhibe.”***

Latin Proverb

This year tobacco staff held a county wide Summertime SWAT meeting at Whispering Pines Park. This meeting was intended to bring all SWAT advisors and SWAT students together to plan for the next school year's activities. The meeting ran from 1-3pm and started with a fun Q & A about tobacco with awesome prizes. The group then got the opportunity to decide on the next SWAT t-shirt.

They picked a neon green t-shirt with the same logo we've done in the past. SWAT students and advisors broke out into groups and were assigned to create activities for each month of the calendar year.

Welcome aboard E-Nini Hassee and Salvation Army SWAT!

We're looking forward to a great SWAT year.

**Make a plan.
For those who
are trying to
quit tobacco,
make a plan to
quit, prepare
yourself, and
stick to it.**



Interested in Joining a Committee?

If you have a special interest in a certain policy below, help tobacco staff by joining a committee. You can join a committee by calling 352-726-1731 ext 342. These policy areas give the Tobacco Free Partnership of Citrus County a chance to be more active within the community. Let your talents and skills become strengths in your partnership.

- Candy-Flavored Tobacco
- K-12 Policies
- Cessation Opportunities
- Retail Advertising (Point-of-Sale)
- Smoke-free Multi-Unit Housing
- SWAT



Tobacco Free Partnership of Citrus County Chair

Congratulations to Jessica Hoag for becoming the Tobacco Free Partnership of Citrus County's new Chair!

Jessica works as the Student Health Specialist with the Citrus County School Board. She has also worked as the Tobacco Prevention Specialist in Sumter County as well.

If you see Jessica, make sure to congratulate her!



Join us at the Women's Health and Fitness Expo

Seven Rivers Regional Medical Center proudly presents the Citrus County Chamber of Commerce Business Women's Alliance Women's Health and Fitness Expo, Saturday September 28th from 9am to 2pm at the National Guard Armory in Crystal River. Admission is free to the general public and the first 500 people that arrive will receive goody bags! There will be door prizes with value up to \$1000 and free health screenings and product samples. Physicians and other specialists will be providing quick talks throughout the day on topics of most concern to you and your family. There will also be a Spa zone providing mini massages, mini facials & manicures and more.

Come see us at our booth!

Updates

United Way Page

Tobacco Free Partnership of Citrus County have created a United Way Volunteer page. You can find us by going to the United Way Volunteer page> Agencies> Tobacco Free Partnership of Citrus County

The LightHouse

Please join us in congratulating The Lighthouse in Inverness on going smoke free on their campus! They have also decided to have AHEC come in and facilitate a cessation class to help their members quit tobacco.

SWAT Region Meeting

On September 14th Tobacco staff will travel to Polk County with 2 SWAT youth to participate in a SWAT Regional meeting. This meeting will be a training for youth on current issues in tobacco prevention and public speaking.

Providing Cessation Support

If you or someone you know is contemplating quitting tobacco products, please refer them to the Tobacco Prevention Program at 352-726-1731 ext 242 for details on how, when, and why to quit.



3 EASY & FREE WAYS TO QUIT



Talk to a Quit Coach® who can help you quit tobacco.

1-877-U-CAN-NOW

1-877-822-6669



Online help quitting tobacco is only a few clicks away.

www.quitnow.net/florida



Looking for local face-to-face help? Find classes near you.

www.ahecetobacco.com

Tobacco Free Florida's mission is to combat the pervasive problem of tobacco use in the Sunshine State, where each year, more than 28,600² Floridians die from smoking and tobacco-related diseases cost the state an estimated \$19.6 million in healthcare costs and lost productivity.



For more
information or to let
us know what you
think, please
contact:

Elizabeth Wood
352-726-1731 ext 342
Elizabeth_Wood@doh.state.fl.us

Sabrina Yeatman
352-726-1731 ext 242
Sabrina_Yeatman@doh.state.fl.us

Highlights From **No Smokers Allowed: County hires Must Pass Nicotine Test**

Newly hired Flagler County employees will have to take and pass a nicotine test before starting work, effective Oct. 1.

In an effort to improve employee health and decrease health insurance costs, the county will no longer hire tobacco users, a decision that was made in a unanimous vote during a Monday meeting of the Flagler County Board of County Commissioners.

The policy change will not affect current county employees, though the county offers and encourages the use of tobacco cessation programs, which are offered at no cost to its employees.

Under the new policy, nicotine testing will become part of the pre-employment screening process. Job candidates who test positive for nic-

otine will not be considered for a job with the county for a 12-month period following the test.

The tests will cost the county \$5 each, a cost that will be added to the pre-employment drug screen budget.

After October, newly hired employees will have to sign an affidavit stating that they are not active smokers, said Joe Mayer, community services director for the county.

People who live with tobacco users will not test positive for nicotine, said Theresa Williams, a tobacco prevention specialist for the Flagler County Health Department, because nicotine is among the chemicals that are quickest to leave a person's body.

"But it's also one of the most deadly," Williams added.

Williams also said that any-

one who is not using tobacco products but who is currently using tobacco cessation products like nicotine gum or patches shouldn't test positive for nicotine, either, because those products use low levels of nicotine and contain none of the other chemicals found in tobacco.

The legality of policies like this one have been debated in state supreme courts — most notably, in Ohio — but have been upheld as permissible.

Mayer said that some people will be taken on a case-by-case basis if, for example, they are in the process of quitting.

"We aren't trying to beat people over the head; we just want to help them be healthier," he said.

